

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## Message from the Mayor

I am gravely concerned about the shootings and senseless acts of violence that have recently beset our city. They threaten our safety, our children, and the sense of security in our homes. I pray for the victims and their grieving families. To stop these violent acts from occurring in our city we have to begin to come together as a city.

On Wednesday, March 27, I convened a meeting with members of the Cardoza and Garfield communities and local ANC members, along with Chief Charles Ramsey, Assistant Chief Ronald Monroe and members of my Interfaith Council to start finding solutions.

First, MPD's Third District officers, security officers from DC Housing Authority and the Ward 1 Core Team are working to address safety issues and strengthen ties between the police and the community. Our Department of Mental Health is providing Stress Management Counseling to young people and families who have been traumatized by the shootings. And we will be creating, together with the residents at Garfield Terrace, alternatives for at-risk youth through recreation, mentoring, job training and heightened attention to truancy.

The recent shootings overshadow a remarkable decade of progress in reducing crime across our city. Reported crime in DC is at its lowest level since Lyndon Johnson's first term in the White House. Our city's homicide rate last year was half of what it was a decade ago. And shootings, stabbings and other serious assaults are down nearly 20 percent since 1998.

But to continue making progress - the police need your help and support. First and foremost, I urge residents who have any knowledge of these crimes to call the MPD's Crime Solvers Unit at 1-800-673-2777. MPD currently offers a \$10,000 reward to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for any unsolved homicide committed in the District.

There are many positive ways to get involved. Join MPD's Policing for Prevention efforts in your neighborhood. MPD is also reinstituting the Civilian Reserve Corps - we've already sworn in our first 50 officers, and are looking for 600. To join, call the MPD recruiting office at (202) 727-2767 or visit [mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov). You can also help mentor an ex-offender returning to the community through your local faith organization.

Please, be safe and be smart. And think about how you can help our city continue to become a place where children can grow up without fear.

## A Housing Success Story

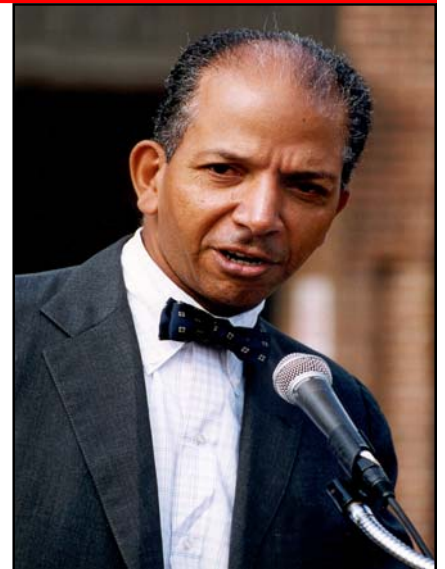
Parkfair Apartments, at 1611 Park Road in Mount Pleasant, is one more success story in my administration's efforts to make housing available and affordable for all District residents.

Two years ago, when the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs released its "neglected properties" list, the apartments at 1611 Park Road were barely standing, with broken windows, exposed wiring, trash piling up, and rat infestations.

The Office of Corporation Counsel negotiated the transfer of ownership of 1611 Park Road to the tenants' association. Victory Housing purchased the property from the tenants' association and will spearhead the building renovations. And this fall, with funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development and Bank of America, the formerly dilapidated building will turn into 31 new apartments—25 of them for low and very low income families. Many of the tenants who suffered through the poor conditions will move back into a gleaming new building.

We're cracking down on delinquent landlords who take advantage of their tenants. From the original list of neglected properties, four landlords have pled guilty, three trials are pending, one building has an appointed receiver, and six buildings have been cleaned up.

And we're continuing our commitment to provide every resident in our city a place to call home - a place to cook and eat dinner, sit and chat with friends, and read to their children.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

## Employee Spotlight

New forms, new systems, new tax rules and regulations—tax time can be overwhelming for employees as well as taxpayers. And tax time is when taxpayers and residents appreciate the services of employees like Tia Lashley. In her position as an administrative assistant with the Office of the Deputy Chief Financial Officer at the Office of Tax and Revenue, Tia excels at customer assistance.

To Tia, finding out information quickly and being able to assist taxpayers is the key to enjoying her job. "I feel that it's important to have as much information as possible on hand to assist taxpayers, especially with all the new and different things we are doing," said Tia.

Since February, 1999 when she began her employment with the Office of Tax and Revenue, Tia has accumulated a wealth of knowledge about the office. It was not long before she became the "go to" person at the Office of Tax and Revenue—she even put together a manual of pertinent information.

In her present position with the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Tia handles the correspondence tracking system as well as phone calls from customers within and outside of the government, including congressional and DC Council staff. "I was a bit scared at first, but knowing where to go for information made my job a lot easier," said Tia. "It's gratifying when the people who call thank me for helping them."

According to Tia's supervisor, Linda Stephens, Tia's best qualities are her willingness to learn new things and her ability to provide excellent customer service to internal and external clients.

Tia is also a member of the Office of Tax and Revenue Communications Council, where she is involved in brainstorming special events for employees. When not at the office, Tia is pursuing a communications degree and spending time with her three children.



*Tia Lashley*

## Eat Ice Cream – It's Good for the Community

On Saturday, March 30, I celebrated the grand re-opening of the Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop near the Eastern Market—it is now one of Ben & Jerry's "PartnerShops," the first of its kind in Washington, DC.

Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop program is part of a growing movement in which nonprofit organizations leverage the power of business for community benefit. Here's how it works. Ben & Jerry's donates PartnerShops to nonprofit organizations by waiving the standard franchise fees and then allowing the nonprofit organizations to retain the proceeds from the shop to support their programs.

In January, the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) opened the Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop at the Eastern Market. Proceeds from the ice cream shop support LAYC, which was founded in 1974 for the purpose of serving at-risk immigrant Latino youth. The center's programs now include academics, health education, job training, social services, leadership development, substance abuse prevention, housing, the arts, humanities and recreation for the city's Latino, Vietnamese, Caribbean, African and African-American communities.

The LAYC PartnerShop provides young people with meaningful job experience, and it gives ice cream lovers the chance to support their community.

Joining me as celebrity ice cream scoopers on March 30 were: Senator James Jeffords (I-VT), Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield (co-founders of Ben & Jerry's), Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and DC Board of Education member Tom Wells.

So throw away your calorie counter and grab a cone at the Ben & Jerry's at 327 Seventh Street, SE, near the Eastern Market—it's for an excellent cause!



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

## District Proposes Customer Service Regulations to Protect Cable Television

On April 2, I announced the first comprehensive set of customer service regulations to protect the District's cable television subscribers. These regulations set reasonable and objective minimum service standards for cable operator performance, an area in which District customers have previously had little protection.

For example, the proposed rules require cable operators to provide proper notice of service changes; set clear benchmarks for the payment of subscriber bills; and set an objective system for the calculation of credits when cable service goes out or when picture quality is poor.

I am confident that Comcast and Starpower can meet the standards laid out in these customer service regulations; but if they don't, the District will now have an enforcement mechanism firmly in place to protect residents.

The publication of the regulations in the March 29 edition of the DC Register begins the approval process for the rules and open a 30-day period for public comments. Public comments must be submitted to the District's Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications (OCTT) by April 28. The proposed rules are available on OCTT's website at [www.octt.dc.gov](http://www.octt.dc.gov).

## District Activities



Tourists and locals alike enjoyed the cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin, making this year's Cherry Blossom Festival quite a success.



Mayor Williams at the Great American Cleanup on Georgia Avenue, NW.



Mayor Williams joins (left to right) Cardinal Theodore McCarrick; Brian Tracey, senior vice president, Bank of America; Stan Jackson, director, DC Department of Housing and Community Development; Councilmember Jim Graham; Lucille Coutard, president of the 1611 Park Road Tenants' Association; and Bonnie Thompson, project developer with Victory Housing at the groundbreaking celebration at Parkfair Apartments.



Celebrity scoopers (left to right) Senator James Jeffords, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield join Mayor Williams at the grand re-opening of Ben & Jerry's near the Eastern Market.



## Community News

- [Help Clean up your City](#)
- [Mayor Announces Scheduled Opening of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel](#)
- [Groundbreaking Takes Place for New ATF Headquarters](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.

## Upcoming Events

04/16	<b>Emancipation Parade</b> Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Between 4th and 14th Streets, NW 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
04/24	<b>Mayor's Vietnamese Walkthrough</b> Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs 1600 Park Road, NW 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
04/29	<b>Ward Eight Citizen Update Emergency Preparedness Meeting</b> Matthews Memorial Baptist Church 2601 MLK Avenue, SE 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
05/15	<b>Ward Seven Marshall Heights Community Development Board Meeting</b> 3900 Benning Road, NE 6:30 pm
05/21	<b>Ward Eight Senior Town Hall Luncheon</b> Senior Wellness Center 3500 MLK Avenue, SE 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
05/21	<b>Ward Six/Seven Fairlawn Citizens Association</b> Anacostia Library 18th and Good hope Road, SE 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[Click here](#) to view Mayor's daily schedule.

